

# TEACHING READING

IN

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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THERE is an adage, which, in days long gone by, was frequently quoted to me by my father,\* when we discussed theoretical professional points, and which I have come more and more to recognize as applicable to the Art of Teaching generally, namely: that "what is best administered is best." You may have a good plan, but fail by carelessness or inaptitude to produce good results; or you may have an inferior method, and yet, by carefulness and tact, achieve comparative success. I hope to show you, from my own experience, a system of teaching Reading which is calculated to produce the best results if skillfully put in practice; and which I think cannot fail to work a large measure of improvement under any circumstances.

One of the chief drawbacks to success in teaching Reading arises from the insufficient preparatory training of teachers. This is a disadvantage, however, which you can lessen or remove by your own efforts; which, indeed, you must remove, or be content with mediocrity, where you might obtain distinction. The most advanced teacher is still a learner; and he should retain the learner's spirit when beyond the walls of the classroom. Within the walls, he is a fountain of supply only; without, he draws from every source the means of keeping the perennial stream of knowledge in full flow.

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\* Alexander Bell, the founder of a very successful system for the removal of impediments of speech. (Born 1790; died 1865.)